

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY POSITIONS AS

AUTHORIZED IN FY-74 TERRORIST AMENDMENT

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS, PRETORIA FOR RSO

REFERENCE: STATE 26356

1. SEVERAL SMALLER AFRICAN POSTS PROGRAMMED FOR RSO ASSIGNMENTS UNDER THE FY-74 TERRORIST AMENDMENT HAVE RESPONDED THAT DUE TO CEILING LIMITATIONS, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, ETC., SUCH ASSIGNMENTS REGRETTABLY CANNOT BE REALIZED. THUS, ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL RSO PLACEMENTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. NAIROBI IS CONSIDERED LOGICAL LOCATION AT WHICH TO INSTALL 2ND RSO DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO CONSTITUENT POSTS SERVED OUT OF THAT OFFICE, THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF RSO NAIROBI'S REGION TO ENCOMPASS BLANTYRE AND LUSAKA - POSTS SERVED BY RSO PRETORIA BUT REACHED ONLY VIA NAIROBI - AND NAIROBI'S PROMINENCE AS THE "HUB" OF EAST AFRICA.

2. OTHER FACTORS FAVORING NAIROBI AS SITE FOR 2ND RSO

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INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, FACT THAT AMERICAN

SECRETARY BEING PROGRAMMED FOR RSO NAIROBI UNDER THE
TERRORIST AMENDMENT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED
WORKING FOR TWO RSO'S; INCREASED FRELIMO AND OTHER TERRORIST

ACTIVITY IN EAST AFRICA REGION; LESS THAN ADEQUATE HOST
GOVERNMENT PROTECTION AT SOME POSTS; THE INCREASE IN PRO-
TECTIVE EQUIPMENT ON HAND AND PROJECTED (UNDER THE
TERRORIST AMENDMENT) TO BE EMPLOYED, IF NECESSARY, UNDER
THE CONTROL OF A PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICER; THE
INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY OF SECURITY
PERSONNEL 2ND RSO WOULD PROVIDE IN COVERING CONCURRENT
EMERGENCIES AT MORE THAN ONE POST; AND THE NEED TO REDUCE
THE SIZEABLE GEOGRAPHIC REGION PRESENTLY SERVICED BY THE
RSO PRETORIA.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES EMPHASIZE THAT UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL
OF INTER-NATIONAL TERRORISM AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF
TERRORIST AMENDMENT REPRESENTS NATION'S CONCERN AND
DEPARTMENT'S FIRST OPPORTUNITY SUBSTANTIALLY UPGRADE
SECURITY FORCE, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES ABROAD COMMENSURATE
WITH LEVEL OF THREAT.

ALL POSTS, THEREFORE, BEING URGED BY DEPARTMENT TO TAKE
MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

4. IN CONSIDERING ITS DECISION, POST SHOULD REALIZE THAT
EVEN THOUGH RSO'S ARE SPECIALISTS IN THEIR FIELD, THEY
ALSO CAPABLE OF ASSISTING POST IN OTHER DUTIES WHEN NOT
FULLY OCCUPIED WITH SECURITY MATTERS. FURTHER, IF LEVEL
OF THREAT DIMINISHES AND SECURITY POSTURE OF NAIROBI
REGION DEVELOPS TO POINT WHERE 2ND RSO NO LONGER REQUIRED,
DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO REASSIGN HIM AND ABOLISH POSITION.

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